



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials  
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The Honorable Margaret A. Hamburg, MD  
Commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

November 19, 2010

Dear Dr. Hamburg:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is writing this letter to thank you for your action taken on November 17, 2010 in issuing warning letters to four manufacturers of pre-mixed caffeinated alcoholic beverages.

ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, as well as the 120,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and ensuring the health of the residents in their states and territories.

ASTHO and its members are particularly concerned with the need to address the dangers of alcohol energy drinks because the combined use of caffeine and alcohol is increasing - with a reported prevalence among U.S. college students. Alcohol mixed with caffeine poses serious public health risks and is reported to lead to more risky behaviors such as impaired driving, assaults, and other violence. Numerous state health officials have reported serious concerns and have taken actions to ban these products in their state as they work with their governors, legislators, alcohol control boards, and state attorneys general.

A consensus is building for a ban and your decision to issue warning letters is an important step in that direction. ASTHO will continue to track this important topic area and provide technical support to the states. Please feel free to contact us if we can support the FDA on this or other public health issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E Jarris, MD". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA  
Executive Director  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials